

**Morehead State University
Special Collections & Archives
Archives Accession Form**

Department or Office: Athletics Department

Collection Title: Sonny Allen Photograph Collection

Record Group Number: RG025-20-01

Date transferred: November 4, 2019

Processed by: Elizabeth Brewer and Dieter C. Ullrich

Cataloged by: Dieter C. Ullrich

Date Listed: July 1, 2020

Date Span: 1930s-1980s

Size of Collection: 3.5 linear feet.

Number of Boxes: 7 photograph cases and 1 oversize box.

Type of Material: Photographs

Condition of Material: Fair with some fading of photographs and damaged caused by improper presentation methods and storage.

Arrangement: Organized by subject; Chronological arrangement.

Historical Information: John Edward “Sonny” Allen was a baseball and basketball coach at the Breckinridge High School and Morehead State University. He born in Morehead, Kentucky on April 14, 1928. He attended the Breckinridge Training School where he played varsity basketball for five years and was key in winning the only state championship for the school in 1946. That same year he was named captain of the Kentucky all-state team and was awarded the “Star of Stars Award” for the best performance in the Kentucky-Indiana All-Star game. He attended Morehead State College from 1946 to 1950, where he played baseball and basketball. He was named an All-American in basketball his final year. He later signed professional contracts with the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Indianapolis Olympians of the National Basketball League. His professional basketball career was cut short when he served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He returned to the Breckinridge School after the war and coached both basketball and baseball. In 1954, Allen was hired as the baseball manager for Morehead State and led the team to three league championships in the fourteen years he coached. He also served as assistant athletic director for the college from 1976 to 1984. The following year he retired from Morehead State at age 57. He is a member of the Kentucky Basketball Hall of Fame, the

Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame and the Morehead State Athletic Hall of Fame. Sonny Allen died on May 13, 1999.

Scope and Content: Collection consists of photographs taken or acquired by John E. “Sonny” Allen from the 1930s to the 1980s. The bulk of the photographs are of baseball and basketball teams from Breckinridge High School and Morehead State College. The collection includes images of cheerleaders, football teams, coaches, teachers, class photos and various images from the Morehead State campus. Biographical information and a report from the Special Ad Hoc Committee on the Funding of Athletics, which he was a member, from March of 1989 were added to the collection.

Subject Headings / Descriptors:

Allen, John Edward “Sonny,” 1928-1999.

Morehead State University. Athletic Department.

Morehead State University – History.

Breckinridge Training School (Morehead, Ky.) – Sports.

Breckinridge High School (Morehead, Ky.) – Sports.

Morehead State College – Sports.

Morehead State University – Sports.

Notes: